

# A Remarkable Year





# First Impressions

### A Letter from the First Lady

November 17, 2004

### Dear Californian,

One year ago today, I became the First Lady for the State of California. On that day, my husband, Arnold Schwarzenegger, was sworn in as California's 38th Governor and my life's journey took on a new and broader dimension. In addition to serving as a mother of four children, the daughter of two remarkable parents, a sister, a wife, an author and a journalist, I now serve as California's lead volunteer.

I have always believed California's greatest resources are its people. Our state is home to millions of brilliant women and men who embrace our historic entrepreneurial spirit. These brave individuals do not wait around for "the government" to solve their problems. They take action.

During the past twelve months, I have traveled throughout the state and met with many of these extraordinary individuals who enthusiastically serve their communities, our state, our country and our world.

I met remarkable women who are great architects of change; parents and activists who pitch-in to teach children how to grow beautiful school gardens, the value of good nutrition and home-cooked meals. And, I met exceptional mentors of children of military personnel who are serving our country abroad.

Looking forward, I am thrilled and honored to continue to serve as your First Lady. Together, we can make California an even greater place to call home.

### Regards,

Maria Shriver

# Office of Protocol Honors California Consular Corps

To present California to the world as the most innovative, exciting and diverse state in the country, Maria established the Governor's Office of Protocol and recruited Charlotte Shultz to serve as California's chief of protocol. This office will advise the Governor and First Lady on diplomatic and consular matters. It will also work with the international business community to enhance the role of the state as a center for diplomacy, culture and commerce.



Maria Shriver and Charlotte Shultz attend an October evening event honoring California's Consular Corps.

# 'Being of Service'

Setting an example by volunteering at the Sacramento Food Bank

Maria pays a visit to the Sacramento Food Bank and Father Dan Madigan in December 2003 and volunteers to pass out turkeys.



Photo: John Decker

### Acknowledgements

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"I am on an amazing new journey and falling in love all over again with the remarkable people of the state of California."

Maria Shriver

# A Remarkable Year

### REFLECTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CALIFORNIA'S FIRST LADY MARIA SHRIVER

Governor Schwarzenegger praises Maria's ability to "accomplish so much" and calls her his "most trusted friend and advisor."

USA WeekendApril 23-25, 2004

"Somebody asked me
the other day, 'what do
we want to say are your
accomplishments for your
first 100 days?' And I would
say that 'I kept my kids
sane and normal.'"

Maria Shriver
 Sacramento Magazine, May 2004

On November 17, 2003 Maria Shriver stands proudly with Arnold Schwarzenegger as he is sworn in as California's 38<sup>th</sup> Governor.



# Preparing for the Role of California's First Lady

"My whole life in many ways prepared me for the campaign of the fall and where I am today. My entire life, having been spent in campaigns and being of service was incredible. My journalism is a valuable tool. I know who I am, I know what my values are, my ethics, my principles. I know what I expect of myself. And the rest I'm going to be open to try to navigate."

- Maria Shriver, Sacramento Magazine, May 2004









# First lady, first mom



Maria Shriver is busier than ever, but family life is her top priority





# Mother's Day: A Message of Gratitude

"Today's the day we set aside to show our gratitude to our mothers. We send flowers and pictures, take them out to brunch. . . I've traveled all over this country as a reporter—and now all over California as a volunteer for the state. And when I ask women what they do, so many of them-too many of themsay 'I'm just a mother.' It's time for a change."

- Maria Shriver

### **Mothers:**

# Serving 24/7 on the Front Lines of Humanity

Maria pays tribute with these thoughts on Mother's Day

Today's the day we set aside to show our gratitude to our mothers. We send flowers and pictures, take them out to brunch. As a mother, I cherish every bouquet, every handmade card, every picture and box of chocolates my children and husband have given me on Mother's Day — the day when mothers are shown how much they're appreciated.

My guestion is this: When are mothers going to appreciate themselves? It's time.

I've traveled all over this country as a reporter — and now all over California as a volunteer for the state. And when I ask women what they do, so many of them — too many of them - say, "I'm just a mother." Or they'll say, "I'm a stay-at-home Mom -" and rush to complete the picture

with, "but I used to be a teacher -anurse - an executive." My sister-inlaw says, "I'm just a mother, but I used to be a lawyer." Or in my case, "I used to be a broadcast journalist."

Just a mother? We do the most important work on the planet. We are by and large the primary caretakers of our most valuable resource. We are the guarantors of our future, the creators of the next generation, warriors for our children, the main transmitters of love and language and nurturance and values — and still we think we don't matter. We devalue ourselves and minimize our worth." Just a mother." I've said it myself, and it's ridiculous.

It's time for a change. We need an extreme makeover of our selfimage. I want to get women to stop saying, "I'm just a mother." Instead let's say, "We are mothers and proud of it."

It's a job that requires more courage than most. It takes great courage just to give birth. It takes a big heart filled with courage to do the work required to raise children — to teach them, to give them time, attention, and direction — to help mold them into good human beings with good values. It takes even more courage to accept who your children actually are — to accommodate yourself to that reality — and help them grow into the adults they're supposed to become. And when the time comes, it takes more courage then you can wrap your brains around — to let your children go.

And talk about courage: There are single mothers without sufficient day care, elderly grandmothers filling in as their grandchildren's mothers mothers whose children are serving in the military today — mothers who've lost sons or daughters fighting for us overseas — young mothers who've been widowed by war and have to carry on alone. When we talk about heroes, let's talk about these mothers, too.

So today, enjoy the cards and the flowers and the chocolate and the brunch — and the morning off from working in the trenches for mankind. Appreciate your own hard work as a counselor, teacher, doctor, mediator, cheerleader, disciplinarian, ethicist, beauty consultant, cook, chauffeur, confidante - and, yes, scapegoat, monster, and demanding pain-in-theyou-know-what. All in a day's work. Mother's work.

What do I do? I'm a mother. Period. Enough said.



### How Maria Makes a Difference

Maria writes children's book on coping with Alzheimer's disease

In May, 2004 Maria went on tour to promote her newly released children's book titled What's Happening to Grandpa?

Janet Weeks writes in USA Weekend (April 23-25, 2004), "The resolve to help others was ingrained in Maria Shriver at an early age. Her father, Sargent Shriver, created the Peace Corps, Head Start and Volunteers in Service to America. Her mother, Eunice, founded the Special Olympics.

"With that legacy in mind, Maria Shriver is active in several charities, including Special Olympics, Best Buddies (founded by her brother Anthony) and After-School All-Stars.

"But she also has carved out her own niche, writing children's books meant to ease kids' fears in a scary world."

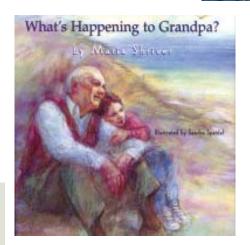
Shriver's fourth book, What's Happening to Grandpa? is generating rave reviews and is listed in the top five on the New York Times best seller list. Nancy Reagan says, "I hope every child and every adult will have the chance to read What's Happening to Grandpa?"

While promoting her book, Maria's media interviews often transitioned into conversations about how she is adjusting to her new role as California's First Lady. These candid conversations took place on the Today Show, Oprah, Larry King Live, Regis and Kelly, The Tim Russert Show, and on Jay Leno. Maria also graced the covers of USA Weekend, Sacramento magazine, MORE magazine and Orange Coast magazine.



Maria signed more than 3,000 books at Borders in Sacramento on May 11, 2004.





"Nobody talks to kids about this disease, and when they see someone with it, their first reaction is either fear or laughter or irritation. But I think children should know what it is."

Maria Shriver

People caught up with Maria to chat about her book What's Happening to Grandpa?





Maria Shriver collaborates with Target to promote reading: Target.com/readysitread

# First Lady of California Maria Shriver Supports School Gardens

School gardens inspire young Californians to learn about agriculture



the one-acre edible garden, chicken coop, tool shed and rows of fruit trees, flowers and organic vegetables. They do everything from planting to growing and preparing the vegetables.

Right: The final product is a beautifully displayed meal prepared by students "from seed to the kitchen table."

"In between a Sacramento movie premiere and a plane trip to Los Angeles, first lady of California Maria Shriver found time to stop by Martin Luther King Junior Middle School in North Berkeley vesterday to tour the Edible Schoolyard, the school's organic garden and kitchen classroom."

> Catherine Ho **Contributing Writer** The Daily Californian April 21, 2004

# The 'Edible Schoolyard'

In 1994, renowned chef Alice Waters and Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Berkeley, California collaborated with teachers, community leaders and students to create an "Edible Schoolyard." The garden creates an opportunity for children to learn about agriculture, nutrition, meal preparation, the joy of family-style meals and much more.

In the 10 years that followed, the project grew from a staff of one to a nationally recognized program employing a full-time staff of six, and offering two annual Americorps positions.



Maria listens as A.G. Kawamura, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, talks about the importance of school gardens.



# Paying Tribute to the Remarkable Women of California

California State History Museum, May 2004

Paying tribute to extraordinary women from all across our great state, First Lady Maria Shriver unveiled her California Remarkable Women exhibit in the California State History Museum. This trailblazing exhibit celebrates many of California's Remarkable Women who, like the mythical goddess Minerva. employed reason and intelligence, arts and literature, and pure strength to help shape the California we know today.

"Women in California have always been hard at work, shaping and inventing the California we now know today. Collectively, California's women are an unrelenting force of nature. Although their contributions have largely lacked historical recognition, women continue to serve 24/7 on the front lines of humanity," said Shriver.

Maria Shriver unveils California's Remarkable Women exhibit at the California State History Museum.

Children tour the Remarkable Women Exhibit.



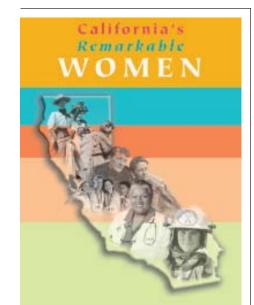
"California's remarkable women are united in the belief that 'anything is possible.' Through this exhibit, I

> and visiting young boys and girls, to uncover new knowledge about these remarkable women who have so wisely and gracefully left an indelible imprint on our way of life. I can only dream that thou-

want my sons and daughters,

sands, if not tens of thousands, of Californians will join me in feeling proud that we are the home state to so many visionary women."

Since the installation of the exhibit, the museum has quickly become a destination point for tourists traveling to the Sacramento region. Foot traffic in the museum and sales in the gift shop have more than doubled, demonstrating the exhibit's economic viability and vitality.



"I cannot think of a more remarkable woman than my own wife, Maria Shriver. She is an inspiration to women everywhere."

- Governor Schwarzenegger



MARIA SHRIVER LAUNCHES LINE OF FASHION BAUBLES

### By Doresa Kato

Mercusy News It's a first for a first lady of Califor-a: a jewelry line. Maria Shriver California Jewelry.

ludes bracelets jangling wit charms of state landmarks, will be un welled tonight at the invitation-only opening of "California's Remarkable Women," an exhibit at the State His

Women," an entitud at the Scale ras-tory Museum in Sacramento. It opens to the public Thursday. The stylish Shriver, who wore Doiro & Gabbana on Election Night and Vi-lenting for her husband's inaugura-to the stylish statement of the stylish strong are instantian in inagen-tion, was spotted during early public appearances wearing an unusual charm bracelet and seeklace that fen-tured tiny pictures of her husband and chikiren. Recently, she started

See SHRIVER, Page 13.4



Agweiry features a bracelet of charms with images such as the Hollywood sign, the Walt Disney Concert Hall and a vintage state flag.

The First Lady's jewelry line can be viewed and purchased at www.planetjill.com

A portion of the proceeds of the Maria Shriver Jewelry Line will benefit the California State Alliance. The Alliance is a non-profit organization that supports a broad array of projects that benefit Californians while lessening the burden on state government.

## A Call to Service

First Lady Maria Shriver named honorary chairwoman of the California Service Corps

Calling upon Californians of all ages to strengthen and support their state through acts of public service, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-14-04 establishing the California Service Corps and named First Lady Maria Shriver honorary chairwoman. She will lead the expansion of the state's service and volunteer efforts.

The Service Corps will serve as the state's lead agency for community service and volunteerism and will partner with other public and notfor-profit agencies to leverage greater resources.





"California's greatest natural resources are its people, who are 36 million strong. No matter your age, no matter what country or state you were born in, if you live here you're a Californian. I am asking all Californians to join me in serving and strengthening our great state," said Shriver.

"Serving others is as easy as dishing out food in a kitchen line, donating blood, planting a school garden or building a neighborhood playground. When you bear responsibility for California and serve the Golden State, you become a member of the California Service Corps," said Maria Shriver.

# Los Angeles Leadership Academy Emphasizes Service

Maria and her mother are on-hand for dedication of 'Sargent Shriver Student Center'

Maria Shriver and her father Sargent Shriver were recognized by the Los Angeles Leadership Academy for their life-long dedication to public service. School officials will be paying tribute to Sargent Shriver's living legacy and unparalleled leadership by dedicating the school auditorium as "The Sargent Shriver Student Center."

Maria Shriver paid a private visit to the campus to see the student center first-hand and to meet with Academy students. The Los Angeles Leadership Academy is a charter school serving 195 students in grades 6-8 and it is home to a California Edible School "Rooftop" Garden. The average income of families attending the school is less than twelve thousand dollars per year and seventy percent of Academy students speak a language other than English at home, predominantly Spanish.

Kathleen Brown, former California State Treasurer and daughter of California Governor Pat Brown, introduces Maria and honors her for her tireless dedication to her charitable work.



"The school's mission encapsulates my father Sargent Shriver's life's work: to prepare young people to be effective leaders in creating a just and caring world," Maria said.

"It is an extreme honor to be able to recognize Sargent Shriver, one of my and my entire generation's heroes," said Roger Lowenstein, pictured here with Eunice and Maria Shriver.

### Maria Rides to Benefit Best Buddies

Events raise \$2 million to help people with intellectual disabilities

Maria joins other volunteers and promotes the inaugural Volvo Hearst Castle Challenge. 100 percent of the money raised by riders benefits Best Buddies International in carrying out its mission of providing friends and jobs for people with Intellectual Disabilities.

The Volvo Classic is a premier cycling ride from Carmel to the renowned Hearst Castle in the lush hills of San Simeon. The Challenge features magnificent views of the California coastline, the active participation of special athletes alongside hundreds of cyclists, high-profile personalities and the famous Hearst Castle and Ranch for the post-ride private concert party and barbeque.

The inaugural Volvo Hearst Castle Challenge raised more than \$2 million for Best Buddies and people with intellectual disabilities.

> Right: Olympic great Carl Lewis, Maria Shriver and Best Buddies founder Anthony Shriver.

"I believe that we can all make a difference in other people's lives by giving of our time and ourselves; this is a great way to serve your state and to serve those with intellectual disabilities, while creating lasting friendships in the process."

Maria Shriver



Photos: Larry Levin

# BEST BUDDIES





Above: Honorary Chairperson Maria Shriver and tandem bike partner Janelle Spindt prepare for their Friendship Bike Ride as a kick-off for the Volvo Hearst Castle Challenge on October 15th.



Maria Shriver and Janelle Spindt take their tandem bike around a track in Brentwood, CA.

# First Lady Launches Military Family Initiative

Moved by personal family stories, Maria issues the following challenge:

During the past months, I've traveled throughout California and met with military families who have loved ones serving our country. I have met husbands, wives, parents, children and family members who also serve while these brave soldiers fight daily for our safety.

Everyone I met was inspirational. I wish everyone could spend a day, an hour, in their company.

It was an honor to spend time with these remarkable men and women and I made a promise while I was sharing their stories and lives.

I promised to search for ways that I, together with the citizens of this Great State, could help make a difference.

As First Lady, I have established a Military Family Initiative to help support California families through volunteer efforts from their fellow Californians. I truly believe that every Californian can serve this state. I challenge organizations, businesses, community groups, schools and faith-based groups to step forward and volunteer their time on behalf of military families in their time of need. You can volunteer in many ways, by providing educational support for families, assisting with home projects, mowing a lawn, raking leaves, babysitting, washing a car or preparing a meal.

This past May, I attended the funeral service for Pat Tillman, the Army Ranger who gave his life in service to his country. I met Pat's mother and father who grieved deeply for their son but were so proud and honored that he had served his country.

Pat's mother was concerned that Pat and his fellow military brothers would be forgotten. I assured her that we would do our best to keep their memories alive. That we would always be supportive — that we would always care. I told Pat's family that they didn't have to worry about him anymore. He was home, he was

"These children who have parents serving in the military — they are serving, too."

-Maria Shriver

safe and he will not be forgotten. He will live on forever as an example and an inspiration to all of us.

Ten years ago, my father, Sargent Shriver, spoke to Yale College and offered these words of encouragement to the Class of 1994: "It's not what you get out of life that counts. It's what you give and what is given to you from the heart. Break your mirrors! Yes indeed — shatter the glass. In our society that is so selfabsorbed, begin to look less at vourself and more at each other. Learn more about the face of your neighbor and less about your own."

- Maria Shriver

Keeping her promise, Maria visited Camp Pendleton's Mary Fay Pendleton Elementary to help kick off a first-in-the-nation Big Brothers Big Sisters of America mentor program that pairs up the children of Marines with mentors who are either in the military or connected to the base.



Upon her arrival at Camp Pendleton, Maria was greeted by more than 800 children and treated like a rock star.





Photo: Bruce Murphy

# Military Families

Maria Shriver joins Governor Schwarzenegger in supporting California's military families and issued the following statement after Governor Schwarzenegger signed legislation supporting California's military and National Guard families:

It is my sincere hope that the policies enacted today provide additional comfort, assistance and protection for the many dedicated and dynamic military wives, husbands, parents and children. As California's lead volunteer, I am committed to providing support for our troops and their families and I call on organizations, businesses, community groups, schools and faith-based groups to step forward and volunteer their time on behalf of military families in their time of need."

Maria Shriver





Governor Schwarzenegger visits soldiers of the 1-185th Armor Battalion at Ft. Irwin in March 2004.



"I join Arnold in his support for the brave military families

who have offered themselves and their loved ones in the

ultimate sacrifice and service to our state and our nation.

# Maria Rewarded For All She Does...

Receives AOL's first Chief Everything Officer Award

California's award-winning journalist, best-selling author, mother and First Lady of California Maria Shriver was honored by AOL when she received the first Chief Everything Officer Award in recognition of her efforts to shine a spotlight on women as they strive to balance their lives.

CEO used to mean Chief Executive Officer, but no longer. For millions of parents today, including First Lady

Maria Shriver, it means Chief Everything Officer. According to an AOL/Roper Public Affairs survey, 41% of parents describe themselves as Chief Everything Officers — they take charge and manage everything in the home, and do it well. Surprisingly, the survey found that more than a third of these modern-day Chief Everything Officers (37 percent) are men. The survey was conducted by Roper Public Affairs for America Online.

"These CEO's are leaders in their communities — and an indicator for parents in general."

> - Michael J. Kelly President, AOL Media Networks September 28, 2004

# Maria Pays Tribute to California's First Ladies... They Served Too

### Installs a First-Ever First Ladies Portrait Gallery

On her initial tour of the Office of the Governor, Maria viewed the Governor's Photographic Portrait Gallery with great interest and asked why there were no photos or portraits of California's First Ladies on display.

After learning no such gallery existed, Maria created the first portrait gallery featuring California's First Ladies. The exhibit has elevated the status of the First Ladies for the first time in California history and has placed them on an equal footing with their partners,

the Governors, in prominent locations for the present and future generations of visitors to view and appreciate. A replica of the First Ladies Portrait Gallery is also on display in the California State History Museum located in Sacramento.

From top: First Lady Isabella Erzaber Gillett (served from 1907 to 1911); First Lady Minnie L. McNeal Johnson (1911-1917); First Lady Helen Pardee (1903-1907); and Mollie Creed Low (1863-67). Background image: First Lady Amelia Elizabeth Cassidy Irwin (1875-1880) is seated just right of center in an illustration of "Mrs. Grant's Reception in the Senate Chamber."



### A Part of Our State's History

Posted next to the portrait gallery is an accounting of the changing role of the First Lady within the Office of the Governor. It is a role reflected in the accomplishments women have achieved in society. Among the notations in this introduction to the gallery are the following:

For most of the 19th and 20th centuries, First Ladies were involved in supporting the social platforms and ceremonial events surrounding their husbands. The combined efforts of the Suffragette and the Women's Rights movements of the 20th century resulted in the opening of opportunities for women to become involved in the governmental process.

It was under the Governorship of Pete Wilson in 1991, that an official office was made available for First Lady Gayle Edlund Wilson. Mrs. Wilson focused on expanding mentoring possibilities for California's children and was passionate about providing health care to newborn babies through the Governor's Office of Special Projects.

First Lady Sharon Ryer Davis was an outspoken advocate for children, literacy and women's issues. She continued to expand the role of the First Lady by creating the Governor's Book Fund to raise funds to purchase books for California's school libraries.

First Lady Maria Shriver will continue to build on this progress and her lifelong dedication to children marks only the beginning of her journey. The portrait gallery is her contribution to these extraordinary First Ladies who not only served but also created a lasting vision for the future.

The First Ladies exhibit was donated by First Lady Maria Shriver.

## Historic Reflections — California's First Ladies

### First Lady Sharon Davis

First Lady Sharon Davis is widely known as a "First Lady with a Mission." She dedicated much of her time to providing California's children a future of promise and possibility through literacy and mentoring. One of Sharon's favorite sayings is, "Everyone has the ability to succeed, you just have to be willing to take a chance and seize it. Remember that success is not final; failure is not fatal. It's the courage to continue that counts."

#### First Lady Gayle Wilson

First Lady Gayle Wilson summarized her service by saying, "As First Lady of California, I was able to pursue two of my passions: healthier children through the prevention of medical problems before they occur and encouraging excellence in math and science among California students. These passions led me to discover California's true gold: extraordinary people who are working to make California a better place every day!"

### First Lady Bernice Brown

When people would talk about First Lady Bernice Brown, you would often hear the words: Elegant! Gracious! Intelligent! Bernice Brown was a true partner to her husband in his efforts to build and invest in a better California for the generations to come!

#### First Lady Gloria Deukmejian

First Lady Gloria Deukmejian was instrumental in developing a state-wide awards program to recognize outstanding volunteer achievement for Volunteer Centers of California. Reflecting upon her achievements as California's First Lady, she said, "I am proud of the alliance of Volunteer Centers of California which has enabled concerned citizens to give of their time and talents to help persons in need of assistance."

### First Lady Nancy Reagan

First Lady Nancy Reagan is best described as a wife, mother, friend, and supporter of military families and California's heroic veterans. She is a true champion of the Foster Grandparent Program which inspired her to write the book, "To Love A Child." As First Lady, Nancy generously gave of her time to visit hospitals, homes and schools for the elderly and disabled children while promoting this program.





Meyers Warren (1943-53) and her daughters; Far right: First Lady Nancy Reagan (1967-75).





# Maria reaches out to Capitol Tourists

### Maria Recounts the Living History of Sacramento's Old Governor's Mansion

Partnering with the State Department of Recreation to create an interpretive video, Maria tells the living story of Sacramento's Old Governor's Mansion. Videos are made available to visitors who may not be able to participate fully in the actual tour due to mobility impairments. Additionally, many visitors with hearing impairments prefer to watch interpretive videos because they are captioned.



Maria in the dining room of the Old Governor's Mansion during the taping of an interpretive video.

The Old Governor's Mansion served as the home of 13 governors, from George Pardee in 1903 to Ronald Reagan in 1967.

"My father Sargent Shriver visited this mansion while he was introducing the idea of creating the Peace Corps. And, my uncle, the late President John Kennedy, ate breakfast with the Brown family in this very room. This mansion provides personal insight into the families and lives of the men and women who made a significant impact on our state. This is the home where children played, women held teas, and entire families, friends and dignitaries engaged in an informal dialogue to set priorities for California," said Maria Shriver.



Photo: Jay Van Rein

The Old Governor's Mansion in Sacramento.

### First Lady Enhances the Office of the Governor

Vito Sgromo, Curator of the California State Capitol Museum, says "Every person who visits California's State Capitol, whether they realize it or not, feels Maria's presence. Her touch graces the Office of the Governor and the surrounding public corridors. Maria designed an elegant and inviting reception area and council room. Partnering with the Irvine Foundation she selected magnificent impressionist paintings featuring California's rich and diverse natural beauty in the springtime. And, she prominently displayed the paintings, currently on loan to the Governor's office, so they can be enjoyed by the visiting public. Maria also partnered with the capitol gift shop to ensure wanting tourists do not go home disappointed or empty-handed. After a tour of the Capitol, visitors love to go downstairs to purchase Arnold Schwarzenegger trinkets and souvenirs."

From top: Purple Hues, Paul Grimm; Untitled, Angel Espoy; and Radiant Valley, William Jackson.







# Looking Forward...



# Maria Serves As Lead Architect Of a Remarkable Day!

Unparalleled Plans Underway for the Governor's Conference on Women and Families

Governor Schwarzenegger believes that "this conference will allow the women of our state to share ideas, and inspire each other to put their stamp on the California Dream."

### A Message from Arnold and Maria

This year we mark the 18th Anniversary of this annual event by honoring "Women as Architects of Change Within Ourselves, at Home, in the Workplace, in our Communities and Around the World."

Women have always played a vital role in California history. It is the number-one state in the U.S. for women-owned businesses. Here, women are mothers, daughters and sisters; they are activists, volunteers, businesswomen, educators, environmentalists and caretakers. We have an exciting lineup of speakers including Oprah, Queen Noor, Jamie Lee Curtis, Linda

Ellerbee, and an inspiring musical celebration by Sheryl Crow. We're continuing the tradition of bringing together women of all generations and backgrounds to share practical ideas for how to succeed in their lives, while juggling increasingly complex and diverse demands. Prior to the conference, we look forward to releasing the results of a statewide survey that provides a portrait of the California woman — who she is, what she values and her vision for the future.

Again, we look forward to welcoming you to the California Governor's Conference on Women and Families on Tuesday, December 7, 2004 in Long Beach, California.

"Oprah is an example of the power that women have to



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influence change in today's society. Her extraordinary accomplishments are an inspiration to all women."

Maria Shriver

## A Place to Tell our Stories. . .

The success of the California Remarkable Women's Exhibit in the California State History Museum ignited an overdue public dialogue about the need to find a permanent solution for telling California's History through the eyes of women. In September, 2004 the California State History Museum Board of Directors resolved to move forward with plans to revitalize the history museum, profiling women's contributions while protecting the interest of the archives.

"New York is going to do a women's museum," Maria said in the Sacramento Bee. "Washington is launching a national women's museum. There is a move by other states to do women museums. I said you could do that here and bring people into the history of California in a different way."

Steve Merksamer, a Sacramento lawyer who sits on the board, called

Shriver a "life raft" for the museum. "She's been portrayed by some of the news media that somehow she came in and took a viable history museum and caused it to change its purpose. False. We'd be closing this down without her." (Sacramento Bee, October 16, 2004.)

Maria describes herself as focused on "the big idea here which has always been how do you tell California's history in a clear, moving and innovative way that would attract, fascinate and educate visitors about our state's history and the contributions of all of its people?"

Plans are underway to bring together the best historians, academics, cultural experts, teachers and people interested in California's great history to advise Maria and the California State History Museum Board of Directors "How do you tell California's history in a clear, moving and innovative way that would attract, fascinate and educate visitors about our state's history and the contributions of all of its people?"

- Maria Shriver

as they strive to create an interactive center where people can gather and learn more about California's extraordinary women, our state's rich and diverse history and our extraordinary archives.



www.firstlady.ca.gov November 2004